Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

January 19, 2005

Mr. David J. Vito Senior Allegation Coordinator United States Nuclear Regulation Commission Region I 475 Allendale Road King of Prussia, PA 19406

Dear Coordinator Vito:

We write regarding the NRC's NUREG 1022 for alert and notification sirens. We are aware that there has been ongoing communication between your office and Rockland County, which we represent, and wish to add our voices to the concerns raised by County Supervisor Vanderhoef.

The NRC was established to oversee the safe development and operation of the commercial nuclear power industry. It is charged with creating and enforcing regulations that will protect the health of all Americans. It is also charged with providing oversight of emergency evacuation plans.

Should the worst happen, we would expect every single siren to be in working order. Instead, the NRC seems to believe that a failure rate of 10% or more, which could result in as much as 25% of the population not being informed of an emergency, is acceptable.

We disagree. It is not acceptable. The NRC not only has the authority, but the responsibility to the people of New York and the country as a whole, to ensure that the evacuation plans and emergency equipment be adequate and in working order. The NRC must revisit its regulation and set a standard that puts health and human safety first.

Sincerely,

Eliot L. Engel

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Sue W. Kelly

MEMBER OF CONGRES

Nita M. Lowey

MEMBER OF CONGRESS